

Commission. I am pleased and honored to say that Mr. Minami also served as a member of my Judicial Screening Committee, from 1993 to 1996. Mr. Minami did an outstanding job on the committee, and his contributions were invaluable. He has been a successful advocate for increasing the selection of African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and Asian Americans for executive and judicial appointments at both State and Federal levels.

Dale Minami embodies the legacy of Thurgood Marshall. I commend him for his dedication, hard work, and many achievements in the areas of civil liberties and social justice and wish him well in all future endeavors. He is the kind of person who makes my State and our country a better place. ●

COMMEMORATING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today, Tunisia commemorates the 47th anniversary of its independence from France. Our two countries share a long friendship that began in 1797, when Tunisia was one of the first countries to sign a Treaty of Peace and Friendship with the United States. In 1956, when Tunisia gained independence from France, the United States was one of the first countries to recognize Tunisia's independence. This long relationship has served as the backdrop for our increased cooperation in the efforts to combat international terrorism. Our shared commitments to peace, security, and stability in the world will remain the most important principles guiding our relationship throughout the 21st century.

I am pleased by Tunisia's commitment to further strengthen the democratic values that our two countries share as the foundation for free and open societies, and I am confident its leaders will continue to work toward promoting greater political freedom and respect for human rights throughout the region.

I wish the Tunisian people the best as they celebrate their country's successful transition from colony to republic. I look forward to many more years of cooperation and friendship between the United States and Tunisia.

HONORING DR. GEORGE V. IRONS, SR.'S INDUCTION INTO THE ALABAMA MEN'S HALL OF FAME

● Mr. SESSIONS. I rise today to honor Dr. George V. Irons, Sr.'s induction into the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame. Dr. Irons was Distinguished Professor of History and Political Science at Samford University for 43 years and a prominent civic leader. As a professor, he taught 17 students who became university presidents—a record in American education.

Dr. Irons was also one of Alabama's true athletic greats—the only University of Alabama track field athlete

ever inducted into the prestigious Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. He is also the only person inducted by both Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame.

While a student at the University of Alabama, he was spotted by Coach Hank Crisp running across the campus because he was late to class. Coach Crisp promptly put him on the track team where he set a collegiate record the first time he pulled on a Crimson Tide uniform. Remarkably, his records still stand today.

Before the days of the million-dollar band at major football games, halftime entertainment consisted of a sport called road racing. After laps in the stadium runners would speed over a hill-and-dale course, about 4 miles, finishing as the halftime show. In this realm, his feats have been heralded by as the greatest of his era.

The Men's Hall of Fame was created by the Alabama Legislature in 1987 to honor posthumously those men who in their chosen professions have made national and international impact for the betterment of humanity. Past inductees include some of America's most distinguished leaders: Warner Von Braun, famed scientist who developed rockets which propelled American astronauts to the Moon; George Washington Carver, botanist who mutated plants to create vital food sources throughout the South; and James A. "Brother" Bryan, who gave sacrificially to fellow Alabamians during some of the severest economic times.

Its most recent inductee, Dr. Irons, joined the Howard College (now Samford University) staff in 1933, the depth of the Great Depression. On his first day the College President asked him to report to the bank to try to stop mortgage foreclosure on the school. At this time, the school owed over a half million dollars. Dr. Irons' personality and persuasion on behalf of the college won the day, saving the school from foreclosure. During difficult economic times, he often taught for the salary of an IOU and in his spare time he coached the college track team and fired the dorm furnace.

In 1962 he received Freedom Foundation's George Washington Medal of Honor for his speech: "Freedom, America's Weapon of Might." It was broadcast worldwide on the U.S. Armed Forces Network. He was the first Alabamians to win this award. He also distinguished himself through military service in World War II and was a respected leader in civic, social, and professional organizations.

Dr. Irons was elected to the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame as the representative of the entire 20th Century. J.L.M. Curry, former Congresswoman and ambassador whose statue as one of Alabama's two representatives in the Capitol's Statuary Hall collection, was elected for the nineteenth century.

It is good this revered Hall of Fame honors those heroes who celebrate the best of our past. I am hopeful that Dr.

Irons' life as an athlete, university educator, military serviceman, and community leader will continue to serve as an inspiration for future generations. ●

JAMIL DADA, RECIPIENT OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FIVE NATIONS DISTRICT 2003 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN GOOD SCOUT OF THE YEAR AWARD

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to reflect on the exceptional work of Jamil Dada, who will be honored by the Boy Scouts of America's Five Nations District with its 2003 Distinguished Citizen Good Scout of the Year Award on March 21, 2003.

Jamil Dada is exceptionally qualified for this award, with a strong record of serving others in his community in Riverside County and the broader region. His contributions to both local and regional community organizations have made a significant difference to countless Californians.

Mr. Dada's most prominent role is that of chairperson for the Riverside County Workforce Development Board, working to ensure a healthy, well-trained workforce for the county. In addition, Mr. Dada devotes his time as a board member for the Boy Scouts of America Inland Empire Council, the Family Service Association of Western Riverside County, the Magnolia Center Division of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce, the Police Activities League in Moreno Valley, the Planned Giving Advisory Board of UC Riverside, the Riverside Community College Foundation, and the United Way of the Inland Valleys.

In the city of Moreno Valley, he demonstrates his broad capacity for leadership as the vice chairman of the Moreno Valley Chamber of Commerce, the treasurer of the Moreno Valley Substance Abuse Task Force, and vice president of the Community Assistance Program, which provides food to those in need.

Mr. Dada is also an Honorary Commander at March Air Reserve Base, where he serves as vice president of the March Field Air Museum, chairman of the Friends of March Field, and treasurer of the March Air Reserve Base Forum.

It is clear that Jamil Dada is an outstandingly active, concerned citizen, and I am extremely proud to extend my sincere congratulations to him on this much deserved recognition from the Boy Scouts of America Five Nations District.

I send my best wishes for a memorable celebration of Jamil Dada's accomplishments and for his continued success. ●

CELEBRATING NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as our country faces imminent war with Iraq, and current events of the day may turn

our attention overseas, it is essential to remember the ongoing battle that many of our young citizens face each day here at home. Our youth are the future of this Nation and must be protected. We not only value the young people of this country, but recognize that they are capable individuals and can take an active role in creating a healthier living situation.

I come to the Senate floor today to talk about a tremendous initiative between the public and private sector that has been reaching out to youth for 20 years: Project Safe Place. I am pleased that the Senate unanimously adopted S. Res. 70, a resolution introduced by Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN and myself to designate the week of March 16, 2003, as National Safe Place Week, in recognition of this partnership.

Over the past 20 years, Project Safe Place has acted as an outreach effort of the YMCA Center for Youth Alternatives—a short-term shelter for youth at risk. Nearly 64,000 young people have received help at over 12,200 designated Safe Place locations. Young people can easily recognize a safe place under a well-known symbol of safety for in-crisis youth. The success of the program, beginning in Louisville, KY, has prompted the implementation of this youth shelter outreach program in over 100 cities throughout the United States. Even though the program has already been established in 41 States across the country, there are still too many communities that don't know about this valuable youth resource.

Safe Place is a nationally acclaimed program that is easily implemented in communities across the country. This program unites the business sector, volunteers, and youth service agencies in a community to provide temporary safe havens for youth in crisis. I urge all my colleagues: if your State does not already have a Safe Place organization, please consider facilitating this worthwhile resource so that young people who are abused, neglected, or whose futures are jeopardized by physical or emotional trauma will have access to immediate help and safety in their community.

National Safe Place Week celebrates that outstanding program and honors the efforts of thousands of dedicated Safe Place volunteers who selflessly devote time and resources to protect our Nation's young people. I hope this commemoration helps to raise awareness of the number of troubled young people in our Nation and provides more youth and their families with the knowledge that help is often right in their own neighborhood.●

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY SHANNON

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, a precious friend of mine and of progressive causes passed away earlier this week. Dorothy Shannon died early on the morning of Wednesday, March 19, 2003. She was 85.

Dorothy was one of the dearest friends anyone could have. She was a fiercely loyal Democrat who was a long-time, prominent fixture in the Wisconsin political scene when I first ran for public office over 20 years ago. As it was to so many candidates, Dorothy's support, and that of her husband Ted, was crucial to me in that first campaign, and they have been staunch supporters and advisors ever since.

Growing up in a union household in Toledo, OH, during the Great Depression, Dorothy's activism came naturally to her. She came out of the Roosevelt Democratic tradition, and it stayed with her. She would remind me to "be a Democrat, like Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

After her serving in the Navy during World War II, she earned her masters in early childhood education at Yale, where she met and married Ted. They moved to Madison in 1950 and had lived there ever since.

As Dorothy told national columnist John Nichols, it did not take her and Ted long to get involved in Democratic politics. She recalled how one day, when they were living in university housing, a young fellow named Bill Proxmire knocked on their door, and asked them to sign up to join the Wisconsin Democratic Party. Ted and Dorothy joined Bill Proxmire and a few other hardy souls, that included such future notables as Carl Thompson, Jim and Ruth Doyle, and Gaylord Nelson. They formed the core of what was to become the modern Wisconsin Democratic Party. Ted and Dorothy helped put Bill Proxmire and Gaylord Nelson in the U.S. Senate, as they helped me over three decades later.

Long before I ran for the U.S. Senate, though, Ted and Dorothy helped me win in my first race, for the Wisconsin State Senate, and they were at every event I ever had for the next 20 years. No matter what the weather, no matter what their health was, they were always there, always encouraging me.

Dorothy's commitment to progressive causes inspired many, and in the early 1980s, Democrats in Dane County made her their cochair, along with a friend of hers, Jim and Ruth Doyle's son. This past January, 20 years later, Dorothy attended the inauguration of the DoYLES' son, Jim Doyle, as Governor of Wisconsin.

As was noted in her obituary, Dorothy chaired the Mondale-Ferraro Presidential campaign in Dane County, and she was credited with helping to organize the largest public rally in support of the Democratic ticket that year.

I was at that rally. I remember it well. Everyone who was there will remember it for the rest of their lives. It was a remarkable outpouring of energy, idealism, and hope for the future, and as such it was the perfect embodiment of Dorothy's qualities.

John Nichols reported that last August, at an antiwar rally and march in Madison, Dorothy was seated in the

middle of the crowd. He noted that "when the crowd prepared to parade off to Vilas Park, several folks said goodbye to the white-haired activist. 'Goodbye?' asked Shannon. 'Oh, no, I'm ready to march.'" As Nichols wrote, "Dorothy Shannon was always ready to march. And rally. And campaign."

No matter what the progressive cause or issue, Dorothy was there. She was steadfast in her commitment, and it extended well beyond party politics. She served on the Middleton Plan Commission, and was active in the League of Women Voters, the University League, and Friends of Pheasant Branch.

It is still hard for me to fully grasp Dorothy's passing. I have known Ted and Dorothy Shannon for half of my life. And that is how we all thought of them. Ted and Dorothy. We always said their two names as one word. If you wanted to mention just one of them, it took a little effort. It slowed up the conversation.

Now, Dorothy is gone, and conversations will be slowed all around Wisconsin.

I offer my deepest condolences to Ted and his family. I will always remember Dorothy, my dear friend, and cherished supporter.●

UVM CENTER MATT SHEFTIC CENTERS HIS PRIORITIES ON HIS FAMILY

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a young Vermonter whose priorities are in the right place. Matt Sheftic is the center for the University of Vermont basketball team, the first Catamounts team to reach the NCAA tournament.

Before choosing to play basketball for Coach Tom Brennan, Matt was a standout for the Essex Junction Hornets, leading them to the 1998 Vermont State Championship. He was a first team all-state selection twice, and in 1999 was named Vermont's Mr. Basketball by the Burlington Free Press, and was Vermont's Gatorade Player of the Year. At UVM, he also serves his country as a member of the U.S. Army ROTC program.

Aside from his successes on the basketball court, in the classroom, and in the ROTC program, Matt is first and foremost dedicated to his family. When his sister Lauren battled an unexpected serious illness, Matt left the basketball team to help care for her. His priorities speak volumes about him as an outstanding young man, about the closeness of the Sheftic family, and about the wonderful job his parents have done raising him.

Matt Sheftic's story is told in an article by Joe Burris in the March 20 edition of the Boston Globe. Today, in honor of Matt Sheftic and his family, and in memory of Lauren Sheftic, I ask that the article "For Vermont's Sheftic, family came first" be printed into the RECORD.

The article follows: